

What is claimed is:

1. A method for placing a call between a first client and a second client, the method comprising:
 - receiving a call request message;
 - authenticating the call request message, whereby an authentic originating client is identified; and
 - searching a database to find a predetermined client billing tag corresponding to the authentic originating client, whereby the call is authorized to be completed if the client billing tag is obtained, and the call is not authorized to be completed if the client billing tag is not obtained.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - inserting the client billing tag into the call request message; and
 - transmitting the call request message to the gateway after the client billing tag is inserted into the call request message.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the gateway provides a network operating support system with the client billing tag.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of authenticating includes performing a calculation using a hash algorithm.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of authenticating includes an evaluation of a profile of the second client, the profile including information corresponding to at least one calling feature activated by the second client.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the server inserts the client billing tag corresponding
2 to the second client into the call request message based on the at least one calling
3 feature.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the server transmits the call request message to the
2 gateway after the client billing tag corresponding to the second client is inserted into
3 the call request message.

1 8. The method of claim 6, wherein the gateway provides a network operating support
2 system with the client billing tag.

1 9. The method of claim 5, wherein the at least one calling feature includes a call
2 forwarding command.

1 10. The method of claim 5, wherein the at least one calling feature includes a call
2 transfer command.

1 11. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 evaluating at least one calling feature activated by the second client;
3 determining the authentic originating client based on the at least one calling
4 feature;
5 retrieving the client billing tag corresponding to the authentic originating client;
6 and
7 inserting the client billing tag corresponding to the authentic originating client
8 into the call request message.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the server transmits the call request message to
2 the gateway after the client billing tag is inserted into the call request message.

1 13. The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one calling feature includes a call
2 forwarding command.

1 14. The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one calling feature includes a call
2 transfer command.

1 15. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 adding a header to the call request message, the header including a server
3 identifier; and
4 transmitting the call request message to the gateway, the gateway being
5 configured to complete the call if the header is detected and not
6 complete the call if the header is not detected.

1 16. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 checking the call request message for the presence of a header, the header
3 including a server identifier; and
4 completing the call if the header is detected.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the call is not completed if the header is not
2 detected.

1 18. The method of claim 1, wherein the first client is a SIP-telephone and the second
2 client is SIP-telephone.

1 19. The method of claim 1, wherein the first client is a SIP-telephone and the second
2 client is a standard telephone coupled to a PSTN.

1 20. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client is
2 coupled to a network gateway.

1 21. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client is
2 coupled to an enterprise gateway.

1 22. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client
2 includes a SIP voicemail server.

1 23. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client
2 includes a SIP conferencing server.

1 24. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client is
2 coupled to a DAL gateway.

1 25. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client
2 includes a client PBX system.

1 26. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client
2 includes a personal computer.

1 27. A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for
2 performing a method for placing a call between a first client and a second client, the
3 method comprising:

4 receiving a call request message;
5 authenticating the call request message, whereby an authentic originating client
6 is identified; and
7 searching a database to find a predetermined client billing tag corresponding to
8 the authentic originating client, whereby the call is authorized to be
9 completed if the client billing tag is obtained, and the call is not
10 authorized to be completed if the client billing tag is not obtained.

1 28. A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for
2 performing a method for placing a call between a first client and a second client, the
3 method comprising:

4 receiving a SIP call request message;
5 authenticating the SIP call request message, whereby an authentic originating
6 client is identified;
7 searching a database to find a client billing tag corresponding to the authentic
8 originating client;
9 inserting the client billing tag into the call request message; and
10 transmitting the call request message to the gateway.

1 29. The method of claim 28, wherein the server completes the call if the client billing
2 tag is obtained, and does not complete the call if the client billing tag cannot be
3 obtained.

1 30. The method of claim 28, wherein the gateway provides a network operating
2 support system with the client billing tag and call statistics after receiving the call
3 request message from the server.

1 31. A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for
2 performing a method for placing a call between a first client and a second client, the
3 method comprising:
4 receiving a SIP call request message from the first client;
5 evaluating at least one calling feature in a profile of the second client;
6 determining an authentic originating client based on the at least one calling
7 feature;
8 retrieving the client billing tag corresponding to the authentic originating client;
9 and
10 inserting the client billing tag into the call request message.

1 32. The method of claim 31, wherein the server transmits the call request message to
2 the gateway after the client billing tag is inserted into the call request message.

1 33. The method of claim 23, wherein the gateway provides a network operating
2 support system with the client billing tag and at least one call statistic after the call is
3 completed.

1 34. The method of claim 31, wherein the at least one calling feature includes a call
2 forwarding command.

1 35. The method of claim 31, wherein the at least one calling feature includes a call
2 transfer command.

1 36. The method of claim 31, wherein the party to be billed is the first client.

1 37. The method of claim 31, wherein the party to be billed is the second client.

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1 38. A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for
2 performing a method for placing a call between a first client and a second client, the
3 method comprising:
4 receiving a SIP call request message;
5 adding a header to the SIP call request message, the header including a server
6 identifier; and
7 transmitting the SIP call request and header to a network gateway.

1 39. The method of claim 38, wherein the gateway is configured to complete the call is
2 the header is present and not complete the call if the header is not present.

1 40. A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for
2 performing a method for placing a call between a first client and a second client, the
3 method comprising:
4 receiving a call request message;
5 checking the call request message for the presence of a header appended to the
6 call request message; and
7 completing the call based on the presence of the header.

1 41. The method of claim 401, wherein the call is completed if the header is present.

1 42. The method of claim 40, wherein the call is not completed if the header is not
2 present.

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1 43. A system for placing a call between a first client and a second client, the system
2 comprising:

3 an IP network;

4 a SIP server coupled to the IP network, the SIP server being configured to
5 process at least one SIP call request message received from the first
6 client to determine an authentic originating client, the SIP server also
7 being configured to obtain a client billing tag corresponding to the
8 authentic originating client; and

9 a network gateway coupled to the SIP server, the network gateway being
10 configured to provide at least one of the first client and the second client
11 conditional access to a public switched telephone network.

12 44. The system of claim 43, wherein the server transmits the call request message to the
13 gateway if the client billing tag is obtained, and does not transmit the call request
14 message to the gateway if the client billing tag cannot be obtained.

15 45. The system of claim 43, wherein the server is configured to insert the client billing
16 tag into the at least one SIP call request message and transmit the call request message
17 to the network gateway.

18 46. The system of claim 45, further comprising a network operation support system
19 coupled to the network gateway, the network gateway being configured to transmit the
20 client billing tag to the network operation support system after the call is completed.

21 47. The system of claim 43, wherein the SIP server identifies the authentic originating
22 client by evaluating the profile of the second client.

1 48. The system of claim 47, wherein the profile includes information corresponding to
2 at least one calling feature activated by the second client.

1 49. The network of claim 48, wherein the server inserts client billing tag corresponding
2 to the second client based on the at least one calling feature.

1 50. The network of claim 43, wherein the server is configured to add a header to the at
2 least one SIP call request message.

1 51. The network of claim 50, wherein the gateway is configured to complete the call if
2 the header is detected and not complete the call if the header is not detected.

1 52. The method of claim 43, wherein the first client is a SIP-telephone and the second
2 client is SIP-telephone.

1 53. The method of claim 43, wherein the first client is a SIP-telephone and the second
2 client is a standard telephone coupled to a PSTN.

1 54. The method of claim 43, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client
2 is coupled to a network gateway.

1 55. The method of claim 43, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client
2 is coupled to an enterprise gateway.

1 56. The method of claim 43, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client
2 includes a SIP voicemail server.

1 57. The method of claim 43, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client
2 includes a SIP conferencing server.

1 58. The method of claim 43, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client
2 is coupled to a DAL gateway.

1 59. The method of claim 43, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client
2 includes a client PBX system.

1 60. The method of claim 43, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client
2 includes a personal computer.

1 61. A server system for placing a call between a first client and a second client, the
2 system comprising:

3 a database configured to store at least one client billing tag; and

4 a processor coupled to the database, the processor being programmed to,

5 process at least one call request message to identify an authentic

6 originating client, and

7 search the database to find the client billing tag corresponding to the

8 authentic originating client, whereby the server allows the call to

8 be completed if the client billing tag is obtained, and does not

10 allow the call to be completed if the client billing tag cannot be

11 obtained.

1 62. The system of claim 61, wherein the processor is programmed to insert the client
2 billing tag into the at least one call request message.

1 63. The system of claim 62, wherein the processor is programmed to transmit the call
2 request message with the client billing tag to a network gateway.

1 64. The system of claim 61, wherein the processor is further programmed to:
2 add a header to the SIP call request message, the header including a server
3 identifier; and
4 transmit the call request message and header to a network gateway.

1 65. A network gateway system for placing a call between a first client and a second
2 client, the system comprising:

3 a communications interface for establishing a call with a circuit switched
4 network; and
5 a processor coupled to the communications interface, the processor being
6 programmed to,
7 receive at least one call request message,
8 attempt to retrieve a client billing tag from the at least one call
9 request message, and
10 transmit the client billing tag and at least one call statistic to a
11 network management system.

1 66. A network gateway system for placing a call between a first client and a second
2 client, the system comprising:

3 a communications interface for establishing a call with a circuit switched
4 network; and
5 a processor coupled to the communications interface, the processor being
6 programmed to,

7 receive a call request message;
8 check the call request message for the presence of a header
9 appended to the call request message; and
10 complete the call based on the presence of the header.

1 67. The system of claim 66, wherein the call is completed if the header is present.

1 68. The system of claim 66, wherein the call is not completed if the header is not
2 present.